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THE OSTRICH.

"Ostriches (which are called by the Arabs *Naahah* and *Thar es Jemmel*, or the camel-bird) are to be met with in the deserts; the Bedouins, however, do not tame them when young, nor take the trouble of hunting them. Burckhardt saw two in Wady Tyh; but on a shot being fired, they were out of sight in an instant. They chiefly inhabit the plains towards Gebel Shammar and Nejed. When full grown, the neck, particularly of the male, is covered with beautiful red

feathers. The plumage upon the shoulders, back, and some parts of the wings, from being of a dark grayish color, becomes black as jet; while the tail and the rest of the feathers are of an exquisite whiteness. The belly, thighs, and breast do not partake of this covering, being usually naked. The female is of a spotted gray color.

"Under the joint of the great pinion, and sometimes upon the smaller, there is a strong pointed excrescence, like a

cock's spur, with which according to certain naturalists, it stimulates itself when pursued. In speed it outstrips the fleetest horse, being assisted by the quick vibratory motion of its wings. In feeding it is voracious, devouring everything indiscriminately, insects, reptiles, leather, rags, wood, stones, and even iron. Shaw says he saw one swallow, without any apparent uneasiness, several leaden bullets, as they were thrown upon the floor scorching hot from the mould; a proof that they are well furnished with powerful digestive organs. Though naturally shy, they are fierce and mischievous when tamed, especially to strangers; they peck with their bills, and strike so violently with their feet, that they have been known to rip open a man with their pointed angular claw at a single blow.

"This bird breeds in the middle of winter, and lays from twelve to twenty-one eggs,—some say from thirty to fifty,—while others make them amount to eighty. The nest is made on the ground, generally at the foot of some isolated hill. The eggs are placed close together in a circle, half-buried in the sand to protect them from rain; and a narrow trench is drawn round, which carries off the water. At the distance of ten or twelve feet from this circle the female is said to place several other eggs, which she does not hatch, as these are intended for the young ones to feed upon; instinct having taught her to make this provision for her offspring, which might otherwise perish of hunger in the desert.* The parents sit by turns; for it is an error to suppose that they leave their eggs to be hatched in the sun, and while one is on the nest the other keeps watch on the summit of the adjacent hill, which circumstance sometimes enables the Arabs to kill them.

"The usual mode of taking them is

* This instinctive habit of the female ostrich, however, is doubted by some authors.

by digging a hole in the ground near the eggs, into which the Bedouin puts his loaded gun pointed towards the nest, and having a long burning match fastened to the lock. After he has retired for some time, the ostrich returns, and not perceiving any enemy it rejoins its mate sitting upon the eggs. In a short while, the match being burnt down, the gun is discharged; and the two birds are frequently killed at one shot. The inhabitants in the district of Jof purchase and eat their flesh; the eggs are reckoned delicious food, and are sold for about a shilling each. The shells are hung in rooms as ornaments; and the feathers are carried to the markets of Aleppo and Damascus, where they bring about two shillings a piece. Sometimes the whole skin is sold with the feathers upon it: the price, when Burckhardt was at Aleppo in 1811, was from 250 to 600 piastres the rotolo, being from 2*l.* 10*s.* to 6*l.* per lb.—*Crichton.*

Good Manners for all Classes.

Good manners, and courtesy of speech, are indispensable for the practice of all men, of whatever rank or station, to ensure the respect and good will of others. It is altogether a mistake to suppose that politeness and the rules of etiquette are suited to the affluent and highly-born alone. There is no reason on earth why the working man, the small shopkeeper or any of the humbler classes should not understand and practise all the rules which good breeding enjoins, as correctly, and with equal benefit, as the most accomplished gentleman. Let not the artisan, the mechanic, or the small manufacturer smile at this assertion. The mistaken notion above alluded to arises from the habit of confounding etiquette with ceremony and parade.—*SEL.*

The London Art-Union was established in 1837,—the annual subscription being one guinea. In the year 1837, £489 were subscribed; 13 works of art were purchased and £390 were expended in prizes; but no funds were set apart for engravings, &c. In 1845 the subscriptions amounted to £15,440.—*SEL.*

A Wonderful Clergyman.

Robert Walker was born in 1809, at Under Crag, in the valley of Seathwaite. He became curate of Seathwaite in his twenty-sixth year, and continued curate until the day of his death, when he attained the great age of ninety-three. His curacy was of the yearly value of £5 only; and he had no fortune whatever. He married a wife in his twenty-seventh year, who brought him a "fortune" of 40*l*, and in due time a family of twelve children, of whom eight survived. The wonder of his history is, that he educated all his children respectably; made one of them a clergyman; was hospitable to all, and generous to his poor neighbours; and at his death left a sum of 2,000*l*. behind him. It is true the income of his curacy was by degrees increased to 50*l*. per annum; but as this would not account for the accumulation of such a sum, we are led to inquire how he could have managed it, with so many claims upon him, and all so well attended to. It appears that he was as expert at various trades as Robinson Crusoe himself. He spun with his own hands all the wool needed for the clothes of himself, his wife, and his family; and, while spinning, taught the children of his parishioners spelling and reading. He assisted, for hire, in hay-making and sheep-shearing; and, for hire, acted as scrivener to the simple people who were not initiated in the sublime mysteries of the pen.

He had, moreover, a couple of acres of land, which he cultivated by his own labour, and that of his sons; kept and bred cattle; and brewed ale, and sold it, for two pence a quart if drunk in the adjoining field, and fourpence if drunk in the parsonage. The wonder very sensibly diminishes when we learn these facts; as, in a similar manner, did that of the enquirer into the history of St. Saviour's Church, Southwark, which was built by a poet. The wonder in this case was, that a poet could have possessed money enough to erect a church; but when it was explained that he was a lawyer as well as a poet, there was no wonder in the business. The fortune of the poor curate would have been equally marvellous; but the profits upon the ale, and the other 'et ceteras' made the story intelligible.—*Dr. Mackay's Scenery and Poetry of the English Lakes.*

Knowledge.

'What an excellent thing is knowledge! said a sharp looking, bustling little man, to one who was much older than himself. 'Knowledge is an excellent thing,' repeated he; 'my boys knew more when they were six or seven years old than I did at twelve. They can read all sorts of books, talk on all subjects. The world is a good deal wiser than it used to be. Everybody knows something of everything now. Do you not think sir, that knowledge is an excellent thing?'

'Why, sir,' replied the old man, looking gravely, 'that depends entirely upon the use to which it is applied. It may be a blessing, or a curse. But knowledge is only an increase of power, and power may be a bad as well as a good thing.'

'That's what I can't understand,' said the bustling little man. 'How can power be a bad thing?'

'I will tell you,' meekly replied the old man, and thus he went on—'When the power of a horse in under restraint, the animal is useful in bearing burdens, drawing loads, carrying his master; but when that power is unrestrained, the horse breaks his bridle, dashes to pieces the carriage that he draws, or throws his rider.'

'I see, I see,' said the little man.

'When the water of a large pond is properly conducted by trenches, it renders the fields around fertile; but when it bursts through its banks, it sweeps through every thoroughfare, and destroys the produce of the fields.'

'I see, I see,' said the little man, 'I see!'

'When a ship is steered aright, the sails that she hoists up enable her the sooner to get into port—but if steering wrong, the more sail she carries the further will she go out of her course.'

'I see, I see,' said the little man, 'I clearly see.'

'Well, then,' continued the old man, 'if you see these things so clearly, I hope you can see, too, that knowledge, to be a good thing, must be rightly applied. God's grace in the heart will render the knowledge of the head a blessing—but without this it may prove to be no better than a curse.'

'I see, I see,' said the little man; 'I see.'—*Selected*

Visit to Japan.*(Continued from page 695.)*

"The winds becoming unfavorable, however, he was driven away from the land so far, that after they changed, it took him a week to recover a position near the place where he first landed. He went on shore again, despatched two other messengers to the capital, with the same information that he had previously sent, and the reason of his detention. He sailed again for Jeddo, and the winds proving auspicious, in due time he entered the mouth of the bay, deep within which the city is situated. As he sailed along the passage, a barge met him coming from the city, in command of a person who, from his rich dress, appeared to be an officer of rank and consequence. This personage informed him that his messengers had arrived at court, and that the emperor had granted him permission to come up to Jeddo with his ship. He was, however, directed to anchor under a certain headland for the night, and the next morning was towed up to his anchorage within a furlong of the city.

The ship was immediately visited by a great number of people of all ranks, from the governor of Jeddo and the high officers attached to the person of the emperor, arrayed in golden and gorgeous tunics, to the lowest menials of the government, clothed in rags. All were filled with an insatiable curiosity to see the strangers, and inspect the thousand novelties presented to their view.

Captain Cooper was very soon informed by a native interpreter, who had been taught Dutch, and who could speak a few words of English, but who could talk still more intelligibly by signs, that neither he nor his crew would be allowed to go out of his ship, and that if they should attempt it they would be put to death. This fact was communicated by a very significant symbol of drawing a naked sword across the throat. The captain dealt kindly with all, obtained their confidence and assured them he had no inclination to transgress their laws, but only desired to make known to the emperor and the great officers of Japan, the kind feelings of himself and of the people of America towards them and their countrymen. The Japanese seamen who had been taken from the desolate island and from the wreck, when parting from

their preserver, manifested the warmest affection and gratitude for his kindness. They clung to him and shed many tears. This scene—the reports of the shipwrecked men, of the many kindnesses they had received—and the uniformly prudent and amicable deportment of the American captain, made a very favorable impression on the Governor of Jeddo. During his stay, this great dignitary treated him with the most distinguished civility and kindness.

But neither captain nor crew of the Manhattan were allowed to go over her side. Officers were kept on board continually to prevent any infraction of this regulation; and, the more securely to ensure its maintenance, and prevent all communication with the shore, the ship were surrounded and guarded by three circular barriers of boats. The circles was a hundred feet asunder, and the inner one about one hundred from the ship. In the first circle the boats were tied to a hawser so compactly that their sides touched each other, and that nothing could pass between, or break through them. The sterns of the boats were next the ship, and in these were erected long lances and other steel weapons, of various and curious forms, such as are never seen or heard of, among European nations. Sometimes they were covered with lacquered sheaths, at others, they were left to glisten in the sun, apparently for the purpose of informing the foreigners, that their application would follow any attempt to pass them. Among these, were mingled flags and banners of various colors and devices. In the middle of this circle, between the Manhattan and the city, was stationed a large junk, in which the officers resided, who commanded the guard surrounding the ship. The boats composing the second circle were not so numerous, and those in the third were more scattering still; but the number thus employed, was almost bewildering to look upon. They amounted to nearly a thousand, and were all armed and ornamented in a similar manner. It was a scene of the most intense interest and amusement to the Americans, the most of whom had never heard of the strange customs of this secluded and almost unknown people. As magnificent and wonderful a spectacle, however, as this array of boats presented during the day, decorated with gaudy ban-

ners and with glittering spears of an infinite variety of forms—in the night it was exceeded by a display of lanterns in such countless numbers, and of such shapes and transparencies, as almost to entrance the beholders and to remind them of the magic in the Arabian Tales. The character and rigor of the guard stationed about the ship, was at one time accidentally put to the test. The captain wishing to repair one of his boats, attempted to lower it from the cranes into the water, in order to take it in over the vessel's side. All the Japanese on board immediately drew their swords. The officer in charge of the deck guard, appeared greatly alarmed at the procedure, remonstrated kindly, but with great earnestness, against it, and declared to Captain C., that they should be slain if they permitted it, and that his own head would be in danger if he persisted in the act. The captain assured the officer that he had no intention to go on shore, and explained to him clearly what his object was. When it was fully understood, great pleasure was manifested by the Japanese officer. He commanded the crew who were managing the boat to leave it, and set a host of his menials to work, who took it into the ship without allowing it to touch the water.

The Manhattan was at anchor in the harbor of Jeddo four days, during which time the captain was supplied by command of the emperor with wood, water, rice, rye in the grain, vegetables of various kinds, and some crockery composed of the lacquered ware of the country. He was recruited with everything of which he stood in need, and all remuneration was refused. But he was told explicitly never to come again to Japan, for if he did, he would greatly displease the emperor. During these four days, he had many conversations with the governor of Jeddo, and other persons of rank, through their interpreter. In one of these, he was informed by the governor, that the only reason why he was allowed to remain in the waters of Japan, was because the emperor felt assured that he could not be a bad-hearted foreigner, by his having come so far out of his way to bring poor persons to their native country, who were wholly strangers to him. He was told that the emperor thought well of his "heart," and had consequently commanded all his officers to treat him

with marked attention, and to supply all his wants.

The day before he left, the emperor sent him his autograph, as the most notable token of his own respect and consideration. It is often said that the greatest men are most careless in their chirography, and in this case, the imperial hand would support the truth of the remark, for the autograph, by the size and boldness of its characters, appeared as if a half-grown chicken had stepped into muddy water, and then walked two or three times deliberately over a sheet of coarse paper, more than any other print to which I can imagine a resemblance.

Among the books taken from the wreck was a small one, in form like a note-book, filled with figures of various and eccentric forms and pictures of spears and battle axes of strange and anomalous patterns. Under each were characters, probably explanatory of the objects attached to them. Both figure and character were neatly and beautifully executed, and they presented the appearance of having been issued from a press of type copperplate, like the plates of astronomical and other scientific works. This little book attracted Capt. Cooper's attention and excited his curiosity to such a degree that, after noticing similar figures embroidered in gold on the tunics of the high officers, he ventured to inquire their explanation. He then learned that it was a kind of illustration of the heraldry of the empire—a record of the armorial ensigns of the different ranks of officers and the nobility existing in the country. Capt. C. allowed me to examine this book and it appeared to me to be a great curiosity both as a specimen of typographical art, and as giving us information of the numerous grades of Japanese aristocracy, and the insignia by which they may be distinguished.

These figures were wrought always on the back of the officer's tunic, and the weapon which appertained to his rank corresponded with the one drawn under the ensign in the book alluded to. Each grade of officers commanded a body of men whose weapons were of a particular and given shape, and those weapons were used by no others under an officer of different grade, or wearing a different badge on his tunic.

(To be Concluded.)

Description of Monterey,

IN THE PROVINCE OF NEW LEON, MEXICO.

SEPTEMBER, 30, 1846.

Monterey is situated at the foot of a hill running from west to east, and on the north side of the river San Juan, which runs between it and the hill until it reaches the east end of the town, when the course of the river is nearly north, the town thus being bounded by the river on the south and east. To the north of the town is a level plain of some miles in extent.

The main streets run nearly E. and W. the length of the town being about 2 1-2 miles, and its average breadth from 1-4 to a 1-2 mile, say four or five streets. The houses are all stone, flat-roofed, covered with cement, as are the floors; so that they are incombustible, and the walls are thick, say from 2 to 3 1-2 feet. The gardens are surrounded with walls varying from 6 to 15 feet high, averaging 10 ft., built of solid masonry, and many of them loop-holed.

On the south side of the town, from 1-2 to 3-4 of a mile and near where the principal assault was made, the banks of the stream are 10 or 12 feet high, surmounted by garden walls of about the same height, all of which were pierced with loop holes,—and a redoubt at each extremity. All the main streets were barricaded with a parapet walled on both sides, and from 6 to 10 feet thick, and 5 to 6 high, with an exterior ditch, and armed with cannon. There are about 30 of these barricades, some having embrasures. On the west of the town, (and most remote from the Camp,) are two hills about 1-2 or 3-4 of a mile from each other, their summits about parallel, (the southern of which is the commencement of the one at the foot of which it has been already stated the town lies.) This hill varies from 2 to 400 feet in height: the northern hill is not quite so high as the other, and on its declivity is a large building called the Bishop's palace—both these hills are occupied on the very summits, and both have batteries besides; the one at the Bishop's palace and the other a redoubt parallel to it. At a mile from the palace is the first 'plaza,' in which is the cemetery with high walls loop-holed, and strengthened by parapets and a strong stone chapel. From this 'plaza' two streets lead to another, half a mile distant; (between which our ad-

vances were made, some of the troops getting on the streets considerably beyond the second square or 'plaza,')—a quarter of a mile farther on, and one street to the south, is the main plaza, on which is a large barrack, a large Cathedral and other buildings, immensely strong. The houses between these 'plazas' and for a considerable distance west of the second one are continuous. Going on from the main plaza, and a little to the north of it, are five bridges over a small stream, one making a mill dam—(to the N. and E. of this Gen. T.'s troops were so terribly cut up.) Proceeding on through barricades and intricacies, we come to three strong redoubts and two not quite so large, all facing to the east, and standing on the border of the stream, the banks of which are 8 to 10 ft. high. On the opposite side its banks are low and level for some distance. Immediately in rear of the most northerly redoubt are a tannery and distillery; and the houses about them are all scattered, and the corn and other vegetables grow high and thick. The enemy had 45 pieces of artillery, generally beautiful brass guns of English manufacture, some 18 pounders, some 12's, and smaller calibres, and a good many howitzers, say 6 to 8, and an immense supply of ammunition and military stores of all kinds.

Directly to the north of the town, on the plain, is a large regular fortification, called the Citadel, with embrasures on the faces and flanks for thirty-two guns. It is a square bastioned work, with a deep dry ditch—and is capable of holding 5000 men. Within it are the walls of a Cathedral, some 25 feet high, very thick, (the building has never been completed) which they had prepared for defence, and which completely defended the terreplein of the curtains, distant fifteen or twenty yards. The town and these works were defended by 5000 regular infantry, 3000 regular cavalry, and about 2900 Rancheros.

Our camp from which we marched to battle, was opposite the eastern extremity of the town and about 3 miles distant. To reach the town on this side, we have to pass between the Citadel and the redoubts I have spoken of.

The assaulting the west end of the town was committed to the 2d division, composed of the Artillery Battalion, the 8th, 7th and 5th Infantry, and Hay's regi-

ment of mounted volunteers (Texans), and Blanchard's company of Louisiana Infantry volunteers. We had to march about seven miles, making our own road, when we attained the west end of the town distant two miles, and came to a high mountain, at the foot of which we bivouacked in a hard rain, without supper or covering. I shall not attempt to give a description of our several assaults and various manœuvres as you will see them, ad infinitum, in the papers. Our part of the assault was judiciously, prudently and successfully performed by Gen. Worth. I would I could say the assault on the east end was equally "judicious"—but it strikes me very much the reverse. In the first place our troops advanced to town under a fire from the west of the Citadel, which was very trying, and from one of the redoubts on the east a constant cross fire—and when they entered the suburbs, where they were without orders and without commanders each on his own hook, they were hemmed in narrow streets, exposed continually to three cross fires of round and grape shot, from two of the redoubts and from the Cathedral, besides musketry from the house tops. This was a little to the north of the bridge I have named, and to the west of the redoubts and tannery.

I have been over the ground since, accompanied by officers who were present the whole time, and had pointed out to me where all the officers fell.—The house and walls are literally riddled with round and grape shot, and my wonder is not that so many fell, but that any escaped to tell the story. But our gallant fellows did some of them escape, and our little army has not diminished the lustre of Palo Alto and the Resaca.

OCTOBER 1st.—After writing to you yesterday an account of this city, I thought I might have exceeded a little in description the facts. I have therefore this morning and yesterday again gone over the eastern part of the town, and I find I have given you an inadequate idea of the strength of the place. I counted seven redoubts at different points on that and the south side of the town, the greatest part of them connected strongly by high walls, well loop-holed, and all or the greater part reversed and having wide and deep ditches in front. I find too, that many of the barricades and embrasures had all a deep

ditch in front. They are made of masonry filled in with earth of the regular form, and about the width of an ordinary parapet. What is remarkable, all their defences looked to an attack from the east end of the town. Every one of the barricades is made for the cannon to point that way, excepting those of the cross streets, which were intended to play on us going either way. And in my opinion nothing saved us from a more severe conflict than we did have, but our making our main attack on the heights on the west: thus, not only defeating all their plans of defence, but utterly distracting them, seeing what they supposed their stronghold in our power. To this, and to the great moral and physical superiority of our men do I attribute our success. Their soldiers will not, and cannot, stand against ours. I closely observed about 1000 of them as they marched out of the town. The officers, (that is the company officers) are inferior—do not look like gentlemen—and have a furtive, downcast look. The men are small, and have the bearing and carriage of slaves rather than soldiers. The horses of their cavalry are small, but little larger than ponies. All the troops are Mexican, descendants of the ancient Aztecs, or Indians. They are, indeed, degenerate, semi-civilised Indians. I should at all times, when the relative numbers are as 3 to 1, feel confident of our beating them.

I do not consider it any boasting to say that thirty thousand European troops could not now drive us from this town, and it would take all Mexico to do it. * * In some countries, even among strangers, you see children who are lovable and in whom you feel interested, but it is not so here—everything is repulsive. The Texans have been committing some murders and outrages, but otherwise the conduct of the troops has been highly exemplary.

An officer of rank thus writes: "Gen. Taylor, in conversation with me, said he had no hesitation in pronouncing it the strongest position on the continent, except Quebec. By the by, a word about the capitulation. The bearer of the flag of truce proposed a surrender of the town, allowing them to remove all the public property; Gen. Taylor asked an unconditional surrender of everything; quite a difference.—*Selected.*



PLOWING.

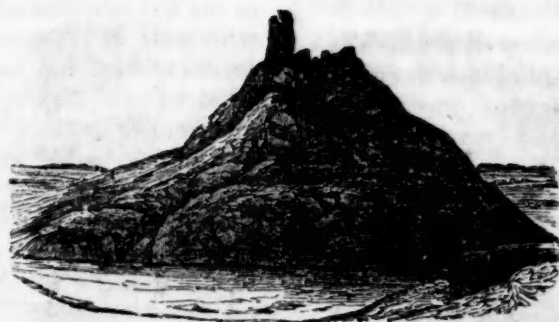
Country occupations have strong attractions for us all, especially in childhood and youth; and nothing but false taste, resulting from sloth or habits of luxury or vice, could ever have turned the minds of so many of the present generation, from the cheerful, healthful, useful and improving occupations of rural life. We are happy to be reminded from time to time, in the midst of the city scenes by which we are necessarily surrounded from January to December, that, after all, the great majority of our countrymen, and of our race, are agriculturists, daily breathe the fresh air of the mountains, hills, vales or prairies, and after the manly, athletic labors of the day, have opportunities "to meditate in the fields at eventide," as well as to enjoy well-earned repose at night. A few months spent among the Connecticut farmers in our early days, have left pleasing associations with every implement of husbandry, and every object of rural life. The influence has accompanied us in many a foreign country, and the sight of a picture often awakens pleasing and profitable recollections.

Whether in Autumn or Spring a plow is a "venerable" object, not less to us than to the English poet. What a volume might be written on its varieties in different ages and nations! What an interesting work, how invaluable to

our children, if a well qualified christian author would give us a history of the world connected with the occupations of peace, as intimately as most of our writers of that class have connected it with that of war! The sword and its bearers would then be presented in their true character, as the foes of our race, the hawks and tigers of mankind; while the plow would be shown to be a proper emblem of goodness and humanity, because the chief instrument of useful industry. Under such instructions as might be given, our youth would be better prepared to act the part of quiet, orderly and profitable citizens, and conscientiously to adopt the principles of peace and righteousness in our relations with other parts of our common family.

But our intention was to describe one of the many improved plows which the ingenuity of our country so frequently brings to public notice.

"Mr. A. B. Earle, of Broome county, New York, says a late paper, has invented a planting plough, of interest to those who have seeds to plant. It has a pretty contrivance by which corn, pumpkin seeds, any kinds of manure may be at one time deposited in the same hill, or only one may be used, at the option of the user. The rows or hills will be at equal distances one from the other, and may be regulated to suit occasion. The machine may be made so as to plant several rows at the same time, if drawn by a horse."



THE RUINS OF BABYLON.

The ruins along the banks of the Euphrates and Tigris have for ages attracted attention: but not until within the past two years have the investigations of travellers discovered anything very satisfactory. Small as our print is, it gives an idea of the chief mass of ruins on the plains of Babylon, as the region is one of desolation, and the form of the principal mound, with the remnant of some immense structure on its summit, corresponds in form with the outline here presented. This hill, or artificial tumulus as it is generally supposed to be, rises before the traveller, from the midst of an open, uncultivated and depopulated plain, with a gloomy appearance, destitute of every attractive feature, except what is found in its connection with long past ages, and the history of the immense city of which it is believed to be almost the only remnant.

What future examinations may disclose, there is little room to conjecture: but since the recent astonishing discoveries made on the upper part of the course of the Euphrates, among the sand hills which cover the well preserved remains of Niniveh, we have some new reasons to stimulate curiosity, and to excite the curious to investigations in this equally celebrated site.

We have received some farther information respecting the discoveries made at Khorsabad, since we published our last notice of them; and are happy to state, that Mr. Layard an Englishman, has

been very successful in excavations made at some distance from that place, in a mound of superior size, the full results of which we hope to have the pleasure of laying before our readers in due time. At the last meeting of the New York Historical Society, at the University, on the 2d of December, Mr. Bartlett noticed this subject in his paper on the "Progress of Ethnology," and mentioned, that Mr. Layard has uncovered a building of white stone, 250 feet by 50, lined with large sculptured stones, resembling those we have before described, representing military scenes in great detail, with ancient arms of all kinds, including battering rams, balistas and catapaltas, and many figures of bulls with wings, corresponding with one of the beasts in Daniel's vision.

This great curiosity remains to be disclosed there can be no doubt; and possibly the shapeless heap on the plain of Babylon depicted above, which is commonly called the ruins of the tower of Babel, may contain remains of ancient art and history as yet not conjectured.

COMPARISON OF SPEED.—A French scientific journal states, that the ordinary rate is per second:—Of a man walking, 4 feet; of a good horse, in harness, 12; of a reindeer, in a sledge on the ice, 16; of an English race-horse, 43; of a hare, 88; of a sound, 1,038; of a twenty-four pounder cannon-ball, 1,300; and of the air, which so divided returns into space, 1,300 feet.

Athens.

Athens, to speak properly, was the school and abode of polite learning, arts, and sciences. The study of poesy, eloquence, philosophy, and mathematics, were in great vogue there, and much cultivated by the youth.

The young people were sent first to learn grammar under masters, who taught them regularly, and upon proper principles, their own language; by which they attained a knowledge of all its beauty, energy, number, and cadence. Hence proceeded the universal fine taste of Athens, where, as history informs us, a simple herb-woman distinguished Theophrastus to be a stranger, from the affectation of a single word in expressing himself. And from the same cause, the orators were greatly apprehensive of letting fall the least injudicious expression, for fear of offending so refined and delicate an audience. It was very common for the young people to get the tragedies represented upon the stage by heart. We have seen, that after the defeat of the Athenians before Syracuse, many of them, who had been taken prisoners and made slaves, softened their slavery by reciting the works of Euripides to their masters, who, extremely delighted with hearing such sublime verses, treated them all thenceforth with kindness and humanity. The compositions of the other poets had no doubt the same effect: and Plutarch tells us, that Alcibiades, when very young, having entered a school in which there was not a Homer, gave the master a box on the ear as an ignorant fellow, and one who dishonoured his profession.

As for eloquence, it is no wonder that it was particularly studied at Athens, as it opened the way to the highest offices, reigned absolute in the assemblies, decided the most important affairs of state, and gave an almost unlimited power to those who had the talent of speaking in an eminent degree.

This therefore was the great employment of the young citizens of Athens, especially of those who aspired to the highest employments. To the study of rhetoric they annexed that of philosophy: I comprise under the latter, all the sciences, which are either parts of, or relate to it. The persons known to antiquity under the name of sophists, had acquired a great reputation at Athens, especially

in the time of Socrates. These teachers, who were as presumptuous as avaricious, set themselves up for universal scholars. Their whole art lay in philosophy and eloquence; both of which they corrupted by the false taste and wrong principles which they instilled into their disciples. I have observed in the life of Socrates, that philosopher's endeavors and success in discrediting them.—*Hist. of Greece.*

INTERESTING TO GEOLOGISTS.—We yesterday had our attention called to some huge remains of old trees brought to light in making excavations for the Gas Company, in the block this side of their original works. We had the curiosity to see them, and yesterday visited the works for the purpose. We wish that we could have had the aid of an intelligent geologist to assist us in our observations, for we know next to nothing or rather quite nothing, of this interesting science ourselves. We found that the workmen had penetrated through four distinct formations—marked as clearly as the lines on a chess-board. With the first we are all too well acquainted. In the second and third were found remains of trees, &c., but none of such magnitude as to surprise any one. But when you reach the fourth the wonder commences. Here you have revealed to you the basis of the trunks of enormous cypresses, the wood of which seems not a whit decayed, which would put to shame any of the present denizens of our forests, so much more magnificent must have been their proportions.

We ourselves measured one, upon which the workmen in the process of removing it had made considerable inroads, and its diameter was fully 12 feet six inches. There were others near at hand, but which it was not so easy to get at, that appeared fully as large, and which we were assured, and could readily believe, reached nearer fifteen feet. Let the reader pause a moment, to ponder on this enormous size. In old-fashioned times a bedroom fifteen feet square in a common hotel would have been deemed of reasonable dimensions.

But this is not the chief wonder. These vast trunks are not removed to great distances from each other; on the contrary, they are thickly clustered, and you can almost jump from one to the other.—*N. Orleans Picayune.*



VARIETIES OF GRAIN.

Wheat and other kinds of farinaceous plants are of such primary importance, that their history is peculiarly interesting, in every age and country in which they have been put to their natural use, as food for man. The different kinds of grain used by the ancients have naturally excited many enquiries: but, such is the absence of minute descriptions in the books extant, that a great difference of opinion has existed respecting even some of the most common and important kinds.

By the decisive proof of facts, visible and tangible, we are now delivered from an unpleasant state of uncertainty: for some of us have had specimens of ancient Egyptian Wheat in our hands, and growing and ripening in our gardens. We find that it closely resembles some of the varieties which have been familiar to us from our childhood, and are taught by it a new lesson on the caution with which many "learned speculations," should be received. While there was room to form conjectures, on the changes which that important plant might have undergone in the course of twenty or more centuries, because many plants are modified in some degree by long cultivation, as well as by different soils, climates, &c., we find that many were misguided: for we see that no important change has taken place.

Investigations which have been made for facts, without indulging in conjecture, have produced some valuable results;

and it is pleasing to see what the different authors have left respecting the culture and uses of different graminiferous plants which afforded food to past generations of men. In Pompeii three bakers' shops have been discovered, with such remains of utensils, grain-mills, &c. that much is now known of the manufacture of flour and bread. Little as they have been looked for, some remains of the flour and dough have been found remaining in the bakers' pans, and several loaves of bread, of their proper forms, and one of them with the stamp of the maker, all black, and reduced to charcoal, yet unquestionably the remains of bread baked for the inhabitants of that city, just before the eruption of Vesuvius, in the year 79 after Christ, by which it was covered with ashes, and lost for nearly seventeen hundred years.

This subject has many interesting relations. Historically it is of such importance, that the origin, progress, and termination of kingdoms and empires may sometimes be plainly perceived to have been influenced by the supplies or deficiency of some particular grain. Wheat is the marked accompaniment of civilization in the Old World, and in no inconsiderable degree its stimulus and support. The American social state has been equally dependent on another grain, quite distinct, but equally important: the Zea Maize, or Indian Corn. We are happy to announce that a thorough and highly valuable essay on the nature and history of this plant is about to be made known to the public, from the pen of Mr. D. J. Brown, of Brooklyn, N. Y., for which the lately published views of Mr. Gallatin and Mr. Schoolcraft have favorably prepared the way.

As an article of Agriculture and Commerce, grains are well worthy of attention, and no less so in a chemical point of view: but as a material for food it is more commended to general attention, by the daily exigencies of life.

Indians of British Guiana.*(Concluded from page 700.)*

"The meeting will see, from this anecdote, that it is necessary for missionaries to be wise as serpents, and harmless as doves. To the person who made the inquiry, "Where do you think our ancestors are?" I replied, "Where do you think they are?" The answer was, "In the air." "But there is a place," I rejoined, "beyond the air, where God wishes you to go and be happy." They said, "if our ancestors are not there, we have no wish to go; and if they are in hell, we shall not mind being with them." Now how was I to address myself to such a people? I knew that the Gospel was the power of God unto salvation, and that this was the only lever by which man, degraded by sin, could be raised to a higher level, and made wise unto salvation. I told them that God loved them. They said, "We know that: He does us no harm." I replied, "God gave his Son to die for you and me, because we are sinners."—"Are you a sinner?" they asked: "we have never seen you drunk." I said I hoped not; but told them that there was a time when I lived in forgetfulness of God, who had shown me nothing but kindness from the day of my birth, and who, when I was living in sin, gave his Son to die for me. "What is that to us?" they inquired: "are we sinners? we have never stolen." I did not wish to enter into these points with savages; but said, "Suppose you have a friend, and show him nothing but kindness: if he should slight you, would you not feel it?" "Yes." "What would you think of him?" "We should think him a very bad man." "Exactly so," I replied; "the Almighty feels that you owe him nothing but kindness, and yet you never pray to him: he loves you, however, notwithstanding your forgetfulness, and gave his son to die for you." This at last prevailed upon the heart of the savage: this is that love of Christ, which, when felt in the heart, operates with a transforming influence on the savage, the Mahomedan, the Jew, the Gentile, and the nominal Christian, and makes us love him who first loved us.

I at last saw their hearts opening, the film clearing from their minds, and perceived that they discerned the great truths of the Gospel. When I found this

to be the case, I tried to persuade them to come nearer to me, in order that I might instruct them more readily. The fear of death had not yet been shaken off; but at length they came, set about clearing, and wished to build their huts in the old style. I recommended them, however, to build comfortable cottages. They said they did not understand how, when I offered to teach them; and I have often been surprised to find how many occupations I have gone through in the course of the day, having acted as Minister, Schoolmaster, Mason, Carpenter, Doctor, Dentist, and in many other capacities. It is our duty to make all these things subservient to the glory of God, and to the promotion of his honour, among those to whom we may be sent to do good. On my erecting a cottage, as a model, they made others; and now there are no fewer than twenty-eight cottages.

While this was going on, I was employed in teaching them the things of God; and when the spirit of God sheds light on the understanding, even the savage understands the way in which he must be saved. My labors having been blessed to the turning of the hearts of some, I sent them forth to tell others what they themselves had experienced; and the effect was so great, that numbers flocked into the settlement.

A Boys' School was established, in which many have been instructed, and afterwards a Girls' School; 150*l.* was speedily raised [in the colony] toward the erection of the Girls' School house. There are now not fewer than forty-eight boys and forty-five girls, of these savage Indians, instructed in their respective schools. Some have married from the schools, and live happily with their partners. If time would allow, I could relate many pleasing anecdotes of what has passed in the schools.

When I had established two schools, I thought of building a church, and asked the people to come forward with their contributions. They said they would gladly give something; but they had no money. I told them to go to work with the wood cutter, which they did; but speedily returned, saying they could not remain with him, because he was cursing and swearing from morning till night. This wood cutter was an European. Some of the Europeans in the colony are

professed Atheists, and wherever they go, they cause a great deal of mischief among the heathen. I then told the people, as they had no money, to bring me the legs of the deer, which they formerly gave to the devil, and I would buy them. They did so, and I purchased them at a fair price. Others made curiosities, which they took to Georgetown and sold. The women said they would be glad to give money for the building of the church, but they had none; and inquired how they were to get it. I told them to call the next day, and in the mean time I would consider the matter. The scheme which I proposed may, perhaps, appear ridiculous here; but I mention it, to show how the simplest machinery will act. I said to them, "You rear fowls: set one apart as the Mission fowl, and sell all the eggs she lays for the benefit of the Mission." They did as they were told, and there was soon such an abundance of eggs and fowls that we could scarcely dispose of them. The children were also most anxious to contribute. I then applied to the Governor for assistance, and the ground on which I proceeded was this. The Government of the Colony, in order to maintain the goodwill of the Indians, had been in the habit of making them presents of knives, cutlasses, powder, shot, and a cask of rum. I once went among them after they had received their present, and the scene was indescribable. The Indians were strewed in all directions, in a state of beastly drunkenness. Perceiving that the practice which had hitherto existed was thus a great hindrance to missionary work, I made a representation to the Governor, stating that he could have nothing to fear from such a handful of Indians. The Governor was willing to adopt my views; and I therefore made one condition, and that was, that it was not to appear that I had been instrumental in stopping the customary presents.—The next year the Indians were greatly enraged, and had they known that I had been the means of putting an end to the practice, they would have speedily put out my candle. I now went to the Governor, and said to him, "You have saved a good deal of money by the discontinuance of those presents, and I want some of it to help me to build a chapel. I want £500. The governor then told me to draw up a petition, which I did, and the result was

that I obtained the £500. While the Chapel was in building, I called on the people to bring in their contributions, which amounted to no less a sum than £150 sterling. The rest was contributed by the Society, and the chapel was consecrated by the Bishop of Guiana.

The number of communicants was then forty-eight; and having no communion plate, we communed out of a tumbler. I brought before them, however, the injunction of the Apostle, "Let all things be done decently and in order;" and told them that we ought to have a communion service, which I would endeavour to procure as cheaply as possible. In the necessity for a service they entirely concurred; but did not appear to be satisfied with the prospect of a cheap set of vessels; they put down £25.

One more instance of their liberality, and I have done. As some of the people frequently arrive late at chapel, I spoke to them on the subject. Their reply was, "We are sorry, but we have not seen the sun to-day." I then said I would endeavour to get a bell, that they might know the time. They subscribed £5 for one; and now, when that bell stops ringing, every Indian is found in his proper place. There are at present upward of one hundred communicants, and the services of the sanctuary on the Lord's day are frequented by from 250 to 300 hearers: it is extremely delightful to hear them join in the responses and in the singing.

This was the state of things when I left the colony. Before leaving, the people surrounded me, saying, "You will not return." I promised to do so, unless God prevented me. They asked me to leave them a pledge that I would do so, as they seemed to think it possible I might not wish again to risk the climate. I was at that time paralyzed, and had to be carried on board the ship by which I came home. I said to them, "Have you ever found me unfaithful to my word?" They said, "No;" but still they wished me to leave them some pledge. I asked what they required; when they said that they wished me to leave my little babe, then only six weeks old. This was a hard trial; but I said, "Well, my babe you shall have;" and it gave me much pleasure to hear, by the last accounts, that the child was doing well, and beginning to stand.—*Ch. Mis. Gleaner.*

Recipes.*Concluded from page 704.*

Fermented bread.—Corn meal does not require leaven or yeast, and would be very slightly affected by such admixture. It is, however, much improved, and made of very different flavor, by a simple and easy fermentative process. The dough is made up as before directed, (for "common loaf bread,") but from 6 to 10 hours before the baking; and, if in cold weather, with warm water, and the dough then kept moderately warm. The loaf, when baked, has a crust so dark as to be almost black, (instead of the usual pale brownish yellow;) and, if the proper degree of fermentation has been reached, the bread has acquired more lightness, and a very slight and pleasant saccharine flavor, and is more palatable to some persons than any other bread. A loaf is prepared for my own breakfast every morning; and, when good, is preferred by me to any other preparation of wheat or corn on the table. But, unfortunately, no care or attention has ever been given by our wives to this, more than to other preparations of plain corn bread; and it depends on the state of the weather, and to the chance-directed management of ignorant and careless cooks, whether the bread is properly fermented or not. If not enough fermented, it is close, heavy, and bad. If the fermentation proceed too far, the bread is sour, and unfit to be eaten. Fermented bread is best suited for breakfast, and to be eaten hot, with butter as usual with hot wheaten bread, rolls, or other breakfast bread or flour. But I have known fermented corn bread used cold for dinner; and found it palatable,—and more so than any other kind of cold bread. Country people in Virginia rarely eat cold bread, of any kind, at any meal; thus preferring in hot bread, that which is more gratifying to the taste, to cold bread, which is, perhaps, more wholesome, and certainly more economical. Where wheaten bread is the ordinary article of consumption, and especially when supplied from public bakeries, necessity or convenience compels the general use of cold bread; and custom and regard to economy concur to render the use universal.

For any kind of corn bread, used at breakfast or tea, to be eaten and enjoyed in perfection, it is not only necessary to

have it fresh and hot, but also to be accompanied by enough good butter. But, owing to its closer and less spongy texture, much less butter is required for it, than for wheaten bread.

Compound or mixed preparations of corn meal.—It is not for want of the best wheat flour, nor the willingness to pay for it, that corn bread is so largely used by our country residents. On the contrary, the "family flour" of our mills is readily exported because of its higher price; and is used generally even by persons in moderate circumstances, with a reprehensible and foolish disregard to economy. For the whitest color, and other light superiority, of this article to the best flour for sale abroad, (good "superfine" flour,) an advance of price, from 15 to 20 per cent, is generally and too freely paid. Every care is bestowed by the mistresses of households on the various preparations of this best of flour for their tables; and none better are presented in any country. Such is the testimony of even our visitors from the cities of the northern States, and from Europe, notwithstanding their previous use of and preference for the cold bread of their homes. But together with our loaf bread, rolls, biscuits, muffins, and other cakes of wheat flour, excellent as they are, for the morning and evening meals, are often presented other cakes prepared wholly or principally from corn meal, which compete well for favor with the former. These vary in composition in almost every family, according to taste or habit. A few of the most common kinds, and simple composition will be here described.

Egg or batter bread.—1 quart of corn meal, 1 egg well beaten, with a spoonful of lard or butter, made into a thick batter, with a sufficient quantity of milk, salt, as in all cases, added in quantity to suit the taste, put the batter into a pan, or cups, and bake in a closed and previously heated oven, until thoroughly done. Eat hot, with butter.

Corn meal muffins.—Prepare a thick batter as above. Take it in large spoonfuls and pour each separately and apart on the bottom of a heated iron oven. The lid, also heated previously, should be quickly put over the oven. The consistence of the batter should be such as to make the muffins of suitable thickness, say about half an inch to three quarters

Batter Cakes.—To 1 quart of corn meal and half a pint of wheat flour, add 2 eggs well beaten, and made into a thin batter with milk. Grease slightly a heated "hoe" or other thin iron plate. Pour on quickly and in separate places a large spoonful of the batter for each cake. When done on the under side, turn the cake over with a knife. The batter should be of such a degree of fluidity as to make the cakes about the eighth or sixth of an inch thick. They are baked very quickly, and should be eaten with butter as soon as brought to the table.

In offering the foregoing directions, I have limited them to the most usual and simple preparations.—Many others, of different and more compound characters, may be found in printed recipes, especially in publications of the southern states. There, yellow corn is preferred and generally used; in Virginia the white only is used for bread, the yellow being universally objected to, and therefore is rarely raised on any farm. The preparations above directed are all in use in my own family, and which I know by having used them myself.

Indian meal mush (or porridge) if introduced, would probably be a pleasant preparation for those who (like the Southern laborers) are accustomed to use oat meal porridge. For mush, corn meal and water are gradually and well mixed together, so as to reduce or prevent lumps. It is then boiled, and for a long time, which is necessary to cook the meal thoroughly. I do not know, and therefore do not pretend to give precise instructions, which actual trial and practise can best furnish. Mush is never used as ordinary or cheap food here, as the poor prefer bread. It is only as an humble delicacy, or for invalids, that it is mostly used; and more generally for the rich than the poor. When hot, with butter, mush is a pleasant dish. With the further addition of molasses, it is the popular northern "hasty pudding."* When cold, mush becomes more firm, and is eaten with milk. After being sufficiently boiled, mush is also sometimes fried with lard, either alone, or as an accompaniment to our common and savory dish—fried young chickens.—*N. Y. Express.*

*"Hasty pudding" is the same thing with "mush." The "molasses," is not mixed with the meal, in the making, but added, (or not, according to the taste of the individual,) afterwards.—Eds. Exp.

AGRICULTURAL.

CATTLE TRADE.

The curious fact is affirmed by a Kentucky drover, that his hogs which weighed one hundred and fifty at starting reached an average of one hundred and eighty on arriving at New York—being nearly half a pound a day while on the journey. On the other hand, the loss of weight—or "drift," as it is called—of cattle is equal to one hundred and fifty pounds, which a bullock of one thousand pounds weight at leaving home lessens on his way to the Atlantic butcher. This drift or loss, it is observed, is chiefly first in the kidney fat and fat of entrails. It has been ascertained that a hog will set out on his journey to that bourne whence no such traveller returns, so fat as to have no cavity or vacuum in his corporation. If, as he journeys on, you don't feed him, he lives first upon and consumes his bowel fat, then his kidney fat, and lastly, his carcass wastes away.

In driving cattle, the practice is to stop (but not to feed) for an hour at midday, when the cattle in less than five minutes all lie down to rest.

A drove of one hundred and twenty cattle, as easily driven as a smaller number, is usually attended by a "manager" on horseback, and two footmen. One footman goes ahead, leading an ox the whole way, say eight hundred miles. The manager on horseback takes his station behind the first forty head, and the third man on foot brings up the rear. There are stations along the whole route—country taverns, often kept by the owner of the adjoining farm, who thus finds a market for his own produce, and keep at any rate a constant supply of what is needed for the drover. Wending their way through Ohio, the farmer supplies them with that valuable plant, the pride of our country, Indian corn, as they have feasted on it at home, stalk, blade, and grain altogether; but, when on their melancholy journey they touch the line of Pennsylvania, Mynheer brings forth his fragrant hay and corn already shucked, and finally, when they come late enough to market, they are turned at night into grass lots, prepared and kept for the purpose.

The cattle reared in the corn regions of the West, especially in Ohio and Kentucky, have been heavily dashed with the short horn blood, by which their average weight has been increased, it is said, about two hundred pounds, with great improvement in their fattening properties and the quality of their meat.

For obvious reasons, cattle are not so much transported on railroads in this country as in England, where the distances from the feeding place to the market are so much shorter. Cattle will go very well on a railroad for twelve hours together, but they must lie down, which they cannot do in the cars like a hog.—*Farmer's Library.*

POETRY.

Father is Coming.

BY MARY HOWITT.

The clock is on the stroke of six,
 'The father's work is done ;
 Sweep up the hearth and mend the fire,
 And put the kettle on !
 The wild night-wind is blowing cold,
 'Tis dreary crossing o'er the wold.

He's crossing o'er the wold apace,
 He's stronger than the storm ;
 He does not feel the cold, not he,
 His heart it is so warm ;
 For father's heart is stout and true
 As ever human bosom knew !

He makes all toil, all hardship, light ;—
 Would all men were the same,
 So ready to be pleased, so kind,
 So very slow to blame !
 Folks need not be unkind, austere,
 For love hath readier will than fear !

Stay, do not close the shutters, child,
 For far along the lane,
 The little window looks, and he
 Can see it shining plain ;
 I've heard him say he loves to mark
 The cheerful firelight through the dark.

And we'll do all that father likes !
 His wishes are so few—
 Would they were more ! that every hour
 Some wish of his I knew !
 I'm sure it makes a happy day
 When I can please him any way !

I know he's coming by this sign—
 That baby's almost wild ;
 See how he laughs, and crows, and stares,
 Heaven bless the merry child !
 His father's self in face and limb,
 And father's heart is strong in him !

Hark ! hark ! I hear his footsteps now—
 He's through the garden gate ;
 Run little Bess and ope the door,
 And do not let him wait !
 Shout, baby shout, and clap thy hands,
 For father at the threshold stands.

ENIGMA.—NO. 26.

I am composed of twelve letters.
 My 7, 5, 6, 4, is useful to armies.
 My 10, 8, 6, 4, 11, 3, is prized by sports-
 man.
 My 10, 2, 12, 11, is a bay in Newfound-
 land.
 My 5, 11, 3, 11, 1, 2, is a town in Asiatic
 Russia.
 My 10, 2, 3, 6, an island on the western
 coast of Africa.

My 11, 7, 5, 1, is a town in the southern
 part of Africa.

My 6, 11, 3, 2, a river in Asiatic Russia.

My 1, 11, 3, 12, 2, is a town in Syria.

My 9, 5, 2, 12, 2, is a range of mountains.

My 5, 4, 8, is a town in Brazil.

My 7, 5, 11, is a lake in Thibet.

My whole is the name of a person who has
 done great good in the world.

Solution of Enigma No. 25, p. 704.—
 Wolcott, Newton, Dow, Solon, Clinton, Nel-
 son, Defoe, Dewitt—Winfield Scott.

The trials of sad and grievous events, see
 that thou sustain patiently ; for by such the
 divine wisdom purifies thee.

To our Subscribers.—At the earnest
 solicitation of friends, and for reasons which,
 we are persuaded, would be approved by the
 judgment of our subscribers generally, we
 have determined to make certain changes in
 our Magazine, which will not only render
 it much more valuable, but will considera-
 bly increase the expense of publication. An
 increase of price will be necessary ; but, as
 the publication will still be the cheapest of
 the kind in the country, and indeed in the
 world, as far as our knowledge extends, we
 confidently count on the continuance and in-
 crease of our patronage.

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